

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 are pending in this application. Claim 21 has been added.

The Office Action dated January 26, 2005, has been received and carefully reviewed. In that Office Action, objections were raised in connection with the drawings. In addition, claims 1, 2, 5-7, 9-12, 15-17, 19 and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Beck and claims 3 and 13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Beck in view of Matsuoka. Each of these issues is addressed below.

DRAWINGS

The Office Action objected to Figure 1 on the basis that it did not include a descriptive legend such as "Prior Art." It is respectfully submitted that Figure 1 does not illustrate prior art, but rather shows the structure of a vehicle steering apparatus according to the present invention (page 6, line 21). For example, at least controller 4 is not disclosed in the prior art. The objection to the drawing is therefore respectfully traversed.

The Office Action also objected to the drawings for not illustrating a vehicle as recited in several claims. By the above amendment, claims 4, 8, 14 and 18 have been amended to remove the positive recitation of a vehicle. It is respectfully submitted that the drawings are now in compliance with 37 C.F.R. 1.83(a).

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. 102(b)

Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Beck. Claim 1 requires a vehicle steering apparatus that includes, *inter alia*, 1) a steering motor supplying a steering mechanism with a steering force and 2) a reaction force motor for supplying a steering member with a reaction force. Beck includes a steering motor 26 that supplies a steering mechanism (wheels 22, 24, for example) with a steering force related to the position of a steering member 12. However, Beck in no manner discloses a reaction force motor as required by claim 1. If element 26 of Beck is interpreted to be a reaction force motor, no steering motor is present in Beck. Moreover, element 26 of Beck does not apply a steering reaction force to a steering member as required by claim 1 and is not a reaction force motor as required by claim 1. Beck does not show or suggest a vehicle steering system that includes a reaction force motor as required by claim 1, and claim 1 is submitted to be allowable over Beck for at least this reason.

Claims 2-10 depend from claim 1 and are submitted to be allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 1.

Claim 11 requires a vehicle steering apparatus that includes, *inter alia*, a reaction force motor for supplying a steering means with a steering reaction force. Beck discloses a steering motor but does not disclose a steering motor and a reaction force motor as required by claim 11. Claim 11 is submitted to be allowable

over Beck for at least this reason.

Claims 12-20 depend from claim 11 and are submitted to be allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 11.

New claim 21 is also submitted to be allowable over the art of record. Claim 21 requires a vehicle steering apparatus comprising, among other elements, a steering member, a steering mechanism, a steering motor operatively connected to the steering member and supplying a steering force to the steering mechanism based on a position of the steering member and a reaction force motor for applying a steering reaction force to the steering member. Beck does not show or suggest such a vehicle steering apparatus. Claim 21 is submitted to be allowable for at least this reason.

#### Conclusion

Each issue raised in the Office Action dated January 26, 2005, has been addressed and it is believed that claims 1-21 are in condition for allowance. Wherefore, reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-20 and examination and allowance of claim 21 is earnestly solicited.

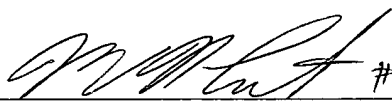
Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Scott Wakeman (Reg. No. 37,750) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present


application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

By  #39,491  
for Michael K. Mutter, #29,680

  
MKM/STW  
1560-0401P

P.O. Box 747  
Falls Church, VA 22040-0747  
(703) 205-8000